PCPIR in Gujarat

*140. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation has submitted an application for setting up Petroleum Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Dahej in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Techno-feasibility of the proposal has been undertaken and presently the same is under circulation to departments concerned under the Government of India.

Decline in the wheat producing area

†777. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat producing area has decreased in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) the total estimated decrease in the wheat production;

(d) the measures being taken by Government to increase food production keeping in view the increasing population in the country; and

(e) by when these measures would be implemented and time by when wheat production would increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the 2nd Advance Estimates, the area coverage under wheat is estimated at 271.99 lakh hectares which is 7.96 lakh hectares less than that during 2006-07. The area coverage under wheat declined duirng 2007-08 because of inclement weather conditions at the time of sowing in some States of the country. As per 2nd Advance Estimates released on 07.02.2008, the wheat production in the country is estimated to be 74.81 million tonnes which is 9.97 lakh tonnes less as compared to production of wheat during 2006-07.

(d) and (e) To increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses, Government has launched the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) from Rabi 2007-08. The NFSM targets to increase the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, i.e. 2011-2012.

New Farm Policy

778. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the concrete measures to achieve new farm policy relating to increasing farmers' net income, attraction and retention of youth in farming and processing of farm products, risk management to sustain the farmers during adverse circumstances, etc.;

(b) whether the problems faced by poor and marginal farmers like continuing farmers'

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.